

THE LIGHT OF THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL

2 Cor 4:1-6

2 Cor 4:1 *This ministry:*(table waiter; servant)

3:8 ministry of Spirit

3:9 ministry of righteousness

5:18 ministry of reconciliation

Received mercy: Paul never forgets that at one time he was a blasphemer & persecutor of Church. *Faint not* (not lose heart or back off intensity or get discouraged)

Weak; fail, shrink back from; become weary.

1. Don't deserve it

2. Don't quit

Not allow ourselves to back off intensity God expects in us ...

Several other verses through out the Bible which tell a child of God not to become faint in the ministry.

Prov 24:10 faint: cease, fail, be feeble, forsake, slack, be slothful,

Don't get discouraged, wimp out... back off intensity of serving God.

Barnes: *He was deterred by no difficulties; embarrassed by no opposition; driven from his purpose by no persecution; and his strength did not fail under any trials. The consciousness of being entrusted with "such" a ministry animated him; and the mercy and grace of God sustained him.*

Isa 40:31 Luke 18:1

Wiersbe: *The way you look at your ministry helps to determine how you will fulfill it. If you look on serving Christ as a burden instead of a privilege, you will be a drudge and do only what is required of you. Some people even look on service as a punishment from God. When Paul considered the fact that he was a minister of Jesus Christ, he was overwhelmed by the grace and mercy of God. His positive attitude toward the ministry had some practical consequences in his life.*

2 Cor 4:16

Mac: ... to give in to fear, lose courage, or behave like a coward. ...His courage came from confident knowledge of the God of glory, whom he had perceived in the face of Jesus Christ. God's sovereign mercy saved him, made him a minister, and strengthened him to do the work of the ministry.

Gal 6:9 Heb 12:3

EDMAN: Never doubt in the dark what God told you in the light.

LUTZER: A. W. Tozer. This man, who knew God so intimately, had days when he was so discouraged he felt he could not continue as a minister. A man who instructed thousands in the deep things of God often felt he was a miserable failure.

3. Reject misrepresentation of truth.

2 Cor 4:2 *But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty*

Disowned the private, concealed, secret things of shame and disgrace. *Dishonesty:* deliberately conceal & misrepresent truth.

Renounced: Disown, reject,

Married to truth...never guilty of misrepresenting or concealing truth.

Not walking in craftiness: Skilled in/marked by underhandedness; Trickery; subtlety

Nor handling the word of God deceitfully; to ensnare, adulterate; to manipulate; to misrepresent

Deceitfully: in such a way as to ensnare;

4. Preach it straight

Not tamper with message ...water down message in order to make it more acceptable...doesn't mix preaching of Word with man's point of view..

Eisogesis vs Exegesis

Biblical Interpretation:

- ◆ Context
- ◆ Grammar
- ◆ Culture/history
- ◆ Literal
- ◆ Application

2 Cor 4:3 *Hid:* cover up; to veil;

Lost: perishing; to be marred; lost; dying

2 Cor 4:4 Satan majors in blindness. Desire to blind people from truth. He is master deceiver...manipulator...Liar.

God of this World Mat 9:34 John 12:31 John 14:30 Eph 2:2 1 Pet.5:8

2 Tim.2:26 taken captive by him at will.

Image: representation, likeness Heb 1:3 John 14:9 John 1:18 Col 1:15

Blinded: Made not willing or not able to perceive or understand

Anytime find a person in darkness, blinded from truth of God's Word ...find influence of Satan. Therefore pray that God remove blindfold.

glorious gospel of Christ. amazing message... brightness and splendor of good news of Christ. Acts 26:18

2 Cor 4:5

5. Don't preach ourselves

Paul not in it for self-glory.

6. We are servants

Mac: Those who love Christ and are devoted to serving Him will be self-effacing, not self-exalting. They will also humbly serve God's people. Conversely, those who are proud are not looking into the face of Jesus. Their primary concern is with themselves, not the welfare of God's people.

2 Cor 4:6 ...*light to shine out of darkness*, (Gen.1:3) ... *to give the light* (beam forth, radiate) *of the knowledge* (made to understand, comprehend,) *of the glory of God* (good opinion; good commercial) *in the face of Jesus Christ* (greatest way see character of God the Father is by looking at Jesus Christ)

Wier: God then begins to form and fill the life of the person who trusts Christ, and he begins to be fruitful for the Lord. 'Let there be light!' makes everything new.

So what? Our ministry?

1. Don't deserve it
2. Don't quit
3. Reject misrepresentation of truth
4. Preach it straight
5. Don't preach ourselves
6. Servants